

BIG MUMBLE

Notice I'm not listening.
Someone speaks to me
but I don't tune in
& miss it. I hear only
an expanded mumble:
tv, dishwasher, clothes
dryer, radios, helicopter,
scream next door, dog
barks & other voices
I can't identify.

FRIGHTENED DUMB

While practicing sutras
I hear my heart
beat in chest
top of spine
left ear & sometimes
in hands but
never in right ear.
It was frightened
dumb by sound
of 54 rounds
fired thru 57
recoilless rifle
one afternoon
training in 1955.

NATURE'S MEADOWS

Sometimes I can
hardly stand up.
Body responds like
an over-stuffed
sandbag. Legs
(God bless them)
wobble but hold.
They remind me
of loyal old work
horses I've seen

in movies. As
long as blood runs
in their veins
they'll answer
my commands.
I'd love to turn
them loose watch them
romp in Nature's
meadows before
they're too old.

6:30 SATURDAY MORNING

Twin explosions wake me.
On feet think shotgun.
"Want to shoot it out?"
someone out there yells.
"Is that what you want?"
I hear someone running
door slam & "I'll
kill the sonofabitch!"
Then a puzzling vacuum.
I sneak around
straining my ears
groping for continuity.

ARTIST FRIENDS

I'm surrounded by artists,
good ones, male & female,
friends, & I'm grateful.
Being around artists
keeps you on your
toes. They can look
thru you, nail or
lift you with a
word. They support
the child & help
keep me honest.